

## The Washington Times

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## The Spirit of Christmas.

Today's Anniversary Is One Which Justly Touches and Purifies the Human Heart.

It is written that after the wise men and the kings had laid their gifts at the feet of the Babe the shepherds paid Him homage. In the spirit of those watchers of the night all of us may approach the cradle of Jesus of Nazareth while we commemorate His birth.

Let schoolmen wrangle about the date of His nativity. To us the important thing is to remember that He was born; for in Him was born a God, a king of men, a prince of peace, a priest of humanity, a prophet of good, what you will. With Him the world took on a new and higher life, a philosophy that deals with the little things of every day and touches the mighty mysteries of eternity.

If He was but a man, He was the incarnate prophecy of what man may become after ages of development. If He was God, He was, perhaps, the only bodily expression of deity which humanity may grasp. From whatever point we view Him the effect on us is the same, a feeling of reverence, a conviction of our unworthiness, a sentiment of gratitude.

Today all of us, Jews, Christians, and Gentiles, can honor the memory of Jesus of Nazareth. No prejudice of race, or creed, or sect, or agnosticism is strong enough to hold back the tribute of love which every heart that touches but the hem of His garment involuntarily offers. Of those who persecuted Him, of those who have reviled Him, it can be said in truth as well as charity that they never knew Him.

He was the friend and companion of all men. The righteous and the wise had no monopoly of this Man of Nazareth. He dined with the rich, He supped with the poor, and He feasted alone in the wilderness. Wherever men were, there He had work to do; and wherever God was, there He felt no loneliness.

To Him, who has the only clean record in all the annals of the race, no one was too vile for sympathy, none too polluted to bless. He who could baffle the doctors of the law found time to discourse with the men of the street and even to cherish the little children who played about Him.

And His memory is dear to us whether we be saints or sinners, rich or poor, wise or unlearned, strong men or weak women. Whether we be Jews or Gentiles, or members of the various churches that go by His name, we can with profit pause once a year to honor the Man called Jesus of Nazareth.

## A Poo Bah Up to Date.

The Multifarious and Cumulative Prerogatives of the Ruler of the Isle of Man.

There are some lucky people in this world, who draw large salaries for doing a very few things, and there are less fortunate individuals, who get a little one for doing a great many. But the class of wage-earners receiving large stipends for filling many lucrative positions at one and the same time is a small one, popularly supposed to exist only in Japan.

But of all the Poo Bahs that have ever existed, either on the lyric stage or in actual life, none can or ever will compare with Lord Raglan, the present governor of the Manx possessions. For if all Gaul was divided into three parts, the Isle of Man remains intact, and the inhabitants, like the crew of the Nancy Bell, are contained en masse and undigested in the maw of this British lord high executioner.

He is, it seems, the successor of the kings and lords of Man, who until the sixteenth century ruled the island as an absolute monarchy, and in addition to the greatness that they were born to he has achieved and had thrust on him all the prerogatives to which royal flesh is heir. He prorogues and dissolves the "House of Keys," which cannot meet without his precept. He is president of the legislative council, or house of lords, and also of the lower house, or the Tynwald Court, as it is called. Both of these parliamentary branches sit as one body, which cannot meet except in his presence, nor adjourn unless by his motion. Moreover, he not only interferes in the debates and manipulates the proceedings, but has also the casting vote.

He can initiate both laws and taxation, and without his consent no law and no tax can be either made or repealed. He has, too, a direct veto on all expenditures, and is chancellor of the exchequer, to say nothing of being president of the government board. He is lord chief justice of the courts, and examines and admits members to the bar. He is captain general of the military forces, chief commissioner of the police and commandant of the prisons, and when they establish a paid fire department he will undoubtedly have a reasonably good chance to become the foreman of the hose carriage.

As far as we can ascertain up to the present time, Lord Raglan has made a wise and most excellent ruler. He has not quartered the peculiar coat that bears his family name on the arms of a defenseless peasantry; nor has he infringed on the copyright of Hall Caine, who is the acknowledged scribe of the island. He may have been somewhat arbitrary, it is true, in minor matters, but he has not endeavored as yet to engraft, by breeding, the silky and effeminate tail of the Angora on the rugged hindquarters of the chief product and export of the island—the Manx cat.

## MARK TWAIN ON TOM REED.

The Humorist's Tribute to the Memory of the Dead Speaker.

He wore no shell. His ways were frank and open, and the road to his large sympathies was straight and unobstructed. His was a nature which invited affection—compelled it, in fact—and met it half way. Hence he was "Tom" to the most of his friends and to half of the nation. The abbreviating of such a man's name is a patent of nobility, and is conferred from his heart.

Mr. Reed had a very strong and decided character, and he may have had enemies. I do not know. If he had them, outside of politics, they did not know the man. He was transparently honest and honorable; there was no furtiveness about him and whoever came to know him trusted him and was not disappointed.

He was wise, he was shrewd and alert, he was a clear and capable thinker, a logical reasoner, and a strong and convincing speaker. His manner was easy and engaging, his speeches sparkled with felicitous phrasing thrown off without apparent effort, and when he needed the happy help of humor he had a mine of it as deep and rich as Kimberley to draw from. His services to his country were great, and they were gratefully acknowledged.

I cannot remember back to a time when he was not "Tom" Reed to me, nor to a time when he would have been offended at being so addressed by me. I cannot remember back to a time when I could let him alone in an after-dinner speech if he was present, nor to a time when he did not take my extravagances concerning him and misstatements about him in good part, nor yet to a time when he did not pay them back with usury when his turn came.

The last speech he made was at my birthday dinner at the end of November, when naturally I was his text. My last word to him was in a letter the next day; a day later I was illustrating a fantastic article on "Art" with his portrait among others—a portrait now to be laid reverently away among the jests that begin in humor and end in pathos. These things happened only eight days ago, and now he is gone from us, and the nation is speaking of him as one who was. It seems incredible, impossible. Such a man, such a friend, seems to us a permanent possession; his vanishing from our midst is unthinkable, as unthinkable as was the vanishing of the Campanile, that had stood for a thousand years and was turned to dust in a moment.—Harper's Weekly.

## PROGRESS IN AERIAL NAVIGATION.

By WILLIAM A. EDDY, Scientific Kite Flyer and Student of Aeronautics.

UT of the world's experience in aeronautics in the past year scientific data have been obtained that will furnish foundation facts for still further progress in the near future.

Octave Chanute, of Chicago, who recently compiled a classified list of flying machine experiments during the past 600 years, declares that to Prof. S. P. Langley, of Washington, belongs the credit of making the greatest advance in aerial navigation. Prof. Langley several years ago built a model flying machine that made a circuit of three-quarters of a mile at an elevation of 600 feet above the Potomac River.

The aeroplane, as it was called, introduced a new principle in aeronautics, a principle which, it is firmly believed, is the only one yet discovered that will make navigation of the air a practical possibility.

Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, who was associated with Prof. Langley in some of his experiments, has been engaged the past summer in perfecting a flying machine on the aeroplane principle.

The cigar-shaped cylindrical balloon continues to be the favorite form with aeronauts who seek to navigate the air with a dirigible gas inflated envelope. C. W. Hastings, a skillful engineer, who died in 1893, established the principle that if you double the diameter of a cigar-shaped balloon you increase its lifting power eight-fold, but increase its end surface air resistance four-fold. He estimated that the highest possible speed that could be developed by such a balloon was thirty miles an hour.

The nearest approach to this speed in actual practice was attained by Count Zeppelin a few years ago, when he established a record of twenty-two miles. His airship was 400 feet long and 200 feet in diameter, and was propelled by a motor. It is believed by many able aeronauts that it will be impossible to secure a much greater speed than this.

with a cigar-shaped balloon, because of the great air resistance to be overcome and the hitherto insurmountable obstacle of constructing a thin envelope sufficiently strong to resist the pressure of the air.

Santos-Dumont, who has been so successful in building a dirigible balloon, attributes much of his success to the pointed shape of the gas envelope. The highest speed he yet been able to attain, however, was only seventeen miles an hour.

Several attempts have been made to construct the envelope, or gas bag, of aluminum; but its great cost will prevent it from ever coming into general use.

Percival Spencer recently made a twenty-one mile trip over London in a dirigible balloon. He constructed the platform upon which his motor rested of bamboo. The speed attained was not more than twelve miles.

Leo Stevens' balloon, in which he expected to make a tour of the bay this fall, was shaped like one-half of a sphere. Unfortunately, it was wrecked before much had been accomplished in the way of experiment.

The safe distance at which a gasoline motor may be suspended is fifteen feet, according to Spencer's experience. Dumont, in his balloons, places it at thirty feet. Of course, the nearer to the gas envelope the less will be the weight the balloon must support. Servero, the Brazilian aeronaut, who lost his life in Paris, made the mistake of suspending it by steel bands within four feet. A spark escaping from the motor traversed one of these steel bands and exploded the balloon with fatal result.

Observant students declare that flying machines are more practical than gas balloons for aerial navigation, for the reason that they offer less resistance to the air. Then, too, the harder the wind blows the more easily do they maintain their position in flight. Great things are expected from the double aeroplane machines in the near future.

## In the Public Eye.

Miss Anna Danielsson, of Stockholm, has been sent to this country by the Swedish government to study the educational systems here. She will also go to Canada for the same purpose.

King Oscar has contributed an article to the Christmas publication of the Swedish "Authors' Union," in which he discusses his own writings in fiction and poetry. He states that he loved verse from his earliest childhood, and that, while in the royal navy, he was inspired to compose it. The sea, he declares, always gives him the greatest poetic inspiration.

Sir Laing Chen Tong, China's new diplomatic representative in the United States, was once the star pitcher on the Phillips-Anderson Academy baseball team.

The bed in which Napoleon died on St. Helena, preserved in the family of Count de Montholon, who shared the Emperor's captivity, has been offered for sale in Paris for \$20,000 by the agent.

Countess de Montholon, the last of her line. She also has a dinner service of sixty-four pieces which once belonged to Napoleon.

Chevalier Trentanove, the well-known sculptor, has returned from Italy to Milwaukee, where he has been commissioned to make a heroic statue in bronze and granite of a citizen who was prominent in the beautification of that town.

## LIFE'S BITTER SWEET.

Tell me your joy, that I may tune my life To echo the glad music of your own. The changing melody, the sunny strife, Of harmonies blent in one full sweet tone.

So shall the faithful shadow of my night, Heighten your happy radiance of delight.

Tell me your sorrow, that I may disdain Mirth and rejoicing, banish all relief, Save the sad ecstasy, the cruel gain Of being one with you, dear heart, in grief. You did deny me love—have you no woo, No pain, to share with one who loves you so? —London World.

## Unconsidered Trifles

## Biblical Zoology.

"Wonder why Sampson picked out the jawbone of an ass for a club?" "Probably because it was the strongest part of the animal."

## The Reason.

Chinese conservatism in family relations may be explained by the fact that marriages of China might, without care, easily get themselves broken.

## The Power of the Tailor.

Clothes may not make the man, but the fact remains that the shabby man is likely to be cut, ripped up the back, pressed, and generally undone.

## Natural Difficulties.

It is much easier for most people to shut their eyes to the good points of others than to shut their ears to scandal; but perhaps nature should be blamed for this.

## The Necessary Qualification.

The peach crop seems to have made a reputation by being a failure; but it takes a peach to do a thing like that.

## IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

III Consequences of Misrepresenting Ailments of Royalty—Emperor Francis Joseph Will Soon Be Well. Suit Over the Estates of Earl Howe—Several Titles Disputed in House of Lords—A Virginia Family Entitled to Earldom.

## Monarchs "Slightly Indisposed."

It is a pity royal personages in the Old World are so reluctant to permit their ailments to become known, and insist on being described as "slightly indisposed" until they are in the very throes of death.

For it naturally serves to create great alarm when a monarch happens to be overtaken by some trivial ailment. Thus it would have been infinitely preferable to have stated from the outset what was the matter with Emperor Francis Joseph than to attempt to shroud the affair with a veil of secrecy which would give rise to the most exaggerated and disquieting stories as to his condition, some European papers even describing him as dangerously ill and discussing the question of the succession to his throne.

The fact of the matter is that he has been suffering, not from rheumatism, sciatica, or any of the other infirmities of age, but from a mere local and trifling trouble from which few who ride a great deal on horseback are exempt, and which has been cured by means of a slight operation.

## Francis Joseph Will Soon Recover.

If I mention this it is because it is gradually becoming known that the Hungarian Emperor has been recently subjected to the surgeon's knife, and this, taken in conjunction with his seclusion at Schoenbrunn, might lead people to believe that he had undergone some sort of an operation of the grave character, to which King Edward was submitted last summer.

Emperor Francis Joseph is quite well again now, and by the time that this letter appears in print will doubtless be once more in that saddle in which he is so much at home, and in which he is accustomed to spend so many hours every day and in all kinds of weather. Indeed, he is still astonishingly vigorous and physically elastic for his age, and capable of enduring without tiring a half-fatigue that would quickly exhaust much younger a man.

## King's Host Involved at Law.

Lord Howe, who has been entertaining King Edward and Queen Alexandra at Gosport, his place in Leicestershire, is only one of a large number of peers whose honors and estates are the subject of dispute, and the object of legal proceedings. The principal claimant to the estates of Lord Howe, who is the head of the great house of Curzon, is an individual of the name of George Willis, who bases his pretensions on the allegation that the grandfather of the present earl was a supposititious child, and that instead of being entitled to bear the name of Richard W. Curzon, and in lieu of being the heir to that Curzon

peerage subsequently transformed into the earldom of Howe, of the present creation, he was merely the illegitimate child of a servant girl named Annie Oakes.

The first Earl Howe, of the present creation—that is to say, the one who is alleged to have been the illegitimate son of a servant girl—was one of the very handsomest men of his day, and occupied the post of chamberlain and lord-in-waiting to Queen Adelaide, consort of King William IV, and grandaunt, therefore, of King Edward. Rumor, indeed, insisted that the earl and the widowed Queen were secretly married, a story, however, for which there is no proof whatsoever unless it be indeed the devotion of the earl to the Queen.

## Carlyle's Caustic Description.

The Curzons, at least the branch of which Lord Howe is the head, have royal blood in their veins, since the mother of the first Lord Howe was the daughter of King George I of England, and of that Countess Kilmarnock, created by that sovereign Countess of Darlington, and of whom Carlyle gives the following description: "Big staring black eyes, with rims of circular eyebrows like a coach wheel round its nave—very black the eyebrows also—vast red face, cheeks running into neck, neck blending indistinguishably with stomach, a mere caricature of fluid tallow, skinned over, and curiously bedizenized according to Horace Walpole, who had seen her in his boyhood."

It was the grandson of this woman whose name is still held up to obloquy in the pages of English history, who was the famous admiral, and while his features were the very counterpart of his grandfather, King George, he had inherited the dusky complexion of his grandmother, the countess, thanks to which he was known by the sailors as "Black Dick." One of his brothers, Viscount Howe, served as brigadier general in the first American war, and fell at Monmouth, while a third brother, who succeeded him in the peerage, had chief command of the British forces during the American War of Independence from the day of the return of General Gage. The next Lord Howe, "Black Dick's" grandson, was Queen Adelaide's chamberlain, whom I have described above as the handsomest man of his day.

## A Notable Family Seat.

Gosport Hall, where the present Lord and Lady Howe have been entertaining the King and Queen, is one of the most remarkable show places in the United Kingdom, and was built in the middle of the eighteenth century. It was at Gosport as a guest there that Handel composed

the "Messiah," and a great deal of Handel's original music is preserved there. The present Lord Howe is an uncle of the Duke of Marlborough, and Lady Howe is famous as one of the most skillful four-in-hand whips in Europe. Another of Lord Howe's country seats is in Penn House, near Amersham, in Bucks, and bordering on it is the Quakers' burial ground called "Jordans," in which repose the ashes of William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania.

## Other Estates Contested.

Of course, cases where the estates are at stake come up for trial in the ordinary courts of law, and it must be thoroughly understood that George Willis claims Lord Howe's property and not his titles, asserting that he is the rightful heir of that C. Jennings who built Gosport Hall, and who was the uncle of that Sophia, Lady Howe, who married the second Viscount Curzon, and whose son was the first Earl Howe of the present creation. This Lady Howe had three children, an elder son named George, who died at the age of seventeen, a daughter of the name of Marianne, and Richard, who became the first Lord Howe of the present creation. It is this Richard who it is claimed was a supposititious child, and in the event of that contention being true, of course, the Jennings estates would have reverted to the other heirs of the testator, of whom George Willis is the principal descendant.

## A Peerage for the Asking.

With regard to the peerages which are contested, they are tried by the committee of privileges in the house of lords, which advises the crown on the subject. The first on the calendar is the Poulett case, in which the titled organ grinder will press his claims to the earldom, though, owing to a peculiar settlement, he has no hold on the estates, which are very valuable.

Next on the list is the petition of Lord Mowbray and Stourton to be recognized as Earl of Norfolk, while the Countess of Yarborough and the Countess of Powis, as the daughters and co-heirs of the late Lord Conyers, claim the baronies of Darcy de Knayth, Fauconberg, and Meynill.

Fortunately these claims to peerages cost a tremendous lot of money to prove, and it is owing to this question of cost I believe that the Percys, of Virginia, do not push their claims to the earldom of Northumberland, of the creation of 1557. Indeed, the Virginian Percys are the only authentic bearers of that illustrious name, the present Duke of Northumberland and his family being mere Smithsons. MARQUESE DE FONTENOY.

## Statesmen and Their Ways.

## Senator Dubois Is Happy.

The Hon. Fred T. Dubois is today the proudest man in the United States Senate. He is also the happiest, the best-natured, and considers himself the most fortunate. The cause of his kindly feeling for all mankind, even for his political opponents, is found in the fact that he is the possessor of an eight-pound Christmas present. It is a girl baby presented to him yesterday morning. Good old St. Nick evidently intended to make the Senator's Christmas a merry one, and so brought the little stranger just a day in advance, so that she would be here, the worry about her arrival would all be over, and the Idaho statesman could eat his holiday bird in sweet contentment.

The advent of this richly prized gift caused the Senator, for a time at least, to forget the disaster which befell his party in Idaho last month and every other earthly misery which might have been troubling him. All day yesterday and today he has worn a telltale smile which it is a real pleasure to look upon. Senator Dubois' only other child is a girl of three years, and her joy over the new arrival is only blighted by the fact that the infant is not a boy, as she had expressed a wish that Santa Claus should bring her a baby brother. She declared that if Santa were to bring her a brother she would name him after her papa. Even now, when asked what the little one shall be called, she insists that the child shall be "Fred T." "Unless she yields," said the Senator, "I fear we shall have to christen the baby 'Frederica.'"

## "Prince Cupid" of Hawaii.

There is much speculation among members of the House and also in the Washington smart set as to the proper method of addressing the Hon. Jonah Kuniu Kalanuihue when he arrives here next year with credentials as Delegate to Congress from the Territory of Hawaii. He will be the first person of royal blood to enter the House, and hence there is no precedent to guide those who are giving the matter thought. Even Mr. Hinds, the versatile clerk at the Speaker's table, who has the reputation of knowing everything parliamentary, and is able to cite precedent after precedent upon a moment's notice, has no parallel to suggest in the case of the Hon. Jonah Kuniu Kalanuihue.

At home in his native Honolulu the populace are wont to refer affectionately to him as "Prince Cupid," but it is a serious question whether or not grave and dignified members of the House will desire, especially upon short acquaintance, to refer to the Hon. Jonah Kuniu Kalanuihue in such terms of endearment and familiarity. A pet name which he might approve of when spoken with the blimp, liquid languor of some dark-eyed and dusky skinned daughter of tropical Hawaii in addressing him, might be resented if used in a running debate upon the floor of the House by some hoarse voiced and uncouth member from a rural district.

## The Reading Clerk Saved.

Again in a dignified parliamentary body of lawmakers it is not within the rules to employ what might be construed as a disparaging term in making reference to a fellow-member. Of course it would be out of the question to expect any member to speak of him as "Mr. Kalanuihue," for few, if any, could remember the name long enough to repeat it. If indeed they could acquire the pronunciation without a knowledge of the Kanaka language. Imagine, for instance, the Hon. Richard Barthold of St. Louis making an effort in his German-American tongue to repeat the name of the gentleman from Hawaii. It would be difficult enough, indeed, for the Hon. Augustus Peabody Gardner of Massachusetts, with his oleaginous flow of language, to enunciate it properly. Fortunately the Delegates have not the privilege of voting, so that the reading clerk, who would otherwise be obliged to call the name of the gentleman from Hawaii every time there was a roll call, will not be obliged to struggle with the name often. If he did there might be a vacancy in the office.

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## When Members Meet Him.

There is another phase of the matter in connection with the name of the prince. Members will meet him informally, in the cloakroom, and in the committees, and there is a great deal of speculation as to how he will then be addressed. The task of pronouncing his name will be as difficult there as upon the floor of the House. Some member has suggested that he might not resent the name of "Jonah" in the cloakrooms if he proves to be easy of approach and manifests a desire to get acquainted readily. But, then, everybody is reminded at once of that most ancient of all fish stories, and no one wishes to handicap the embryo Hawaiian statesman from the start by calling him a Jonah.

Delegate Wilcox in his younger days was known by a long and euphonious Hawaiian name, but before he came to Congress—in fact, before he entered upon a public career—he curtailed it by dropping off a few unnecessary penults and ante-penults, dropped out a vowel here and there, added now and then a consonant, and the result was the good American name of Wilcox. Perhaps the Hon. Jonah Kuniu Kalanuihue may decide upon reaching Washington to follow in this respect the example of his predecessor. If he does not the situation will have to be relieved in some other manner. The House stenographers have concluded to invent a new short-hand character which shall stand for the name of Kalanuihue.

## Secretary Shaw's Sobriquet.

Only a few people in the East know that Secretary Shaw is familiarly referred to out in Iowa as "Appletree" Shaw, or, if they ever heard of his sobriquet, are unaware of the way he obtained it. When Mr. Shaw was a young man and making a struggling effort to obtain an education, little dreaming that he would ever be the financial head of the nation and a member of the President's Cabinet, he used to be the agent for a nursery. In vacation season he traversed the country, canvassing one county after another, selling trees to farmers. His specialty was apple trees. He was the best salesman the nursery firm had, and it is said of him that he is responsible for half the apple crop of Iowa. It is no unusual thing for the average Hawkeye farmer to point with pride to the long rows of apple trees in his orchard, bowed heavy with luscious fruit, and say that "Appletree" Shaw sold him the trees.

"Hub, you don't know 'Appletree' Shaw; reckon you never had a right smart 'o' dealings lately with the United States Treasury, for 'Appletree' Shaw, he's the man that's running that institution down in Washington just now." The future Secretary of the Treasury rarely ever approached a farmer with an available piece of ground and failed to make a sale. His genial manners won him customers, as they have won him friends and supporters in after life, and there is many a man in Iowa who set out an orchard because Mr. Shaw made him buy the trees, even though he did not think he wanted them, who now is mighty glad he was induced to purchase.

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE SACRIFICE.

Spruce and Hemlock Growths Are Often Wastefully Depleted by the Christmas Ax.

While arboriculturists and tree lovers generally deplore the prodigal sacrifice of young evergreen trees on the Christmas altar, some so-called "priestly" men treat their lamentations with scorn. They tell them that the young evergreens selected for Christmas trees grow always in open or cleared ground, and as they are not crowded together they would never make good timber, therefore there is nothing lost in cutting them off in their infancy and allowing them to give a brief delight as Christmas trees.

If a man chooses to devote his own land to raising young conifers for the Christmas market that is as legitimate a business as any other. The harm is done by stripping wild land belonging to the State or to persons who would like to see it reforested of the young coniferous growth. Land that has been cut over once or twice and perhaps burned over several times does not recover itself rapidly by a dense, close growth. If the young conifers are stripped from it as soon as they are big enough for Christmas tree nature's efforts to reclothe those hillsides with tree growth will be greatly retarded or frustrated altogether.

The last Christmas tree is the fragrant balsam fir, generally called in this latitude "balm." This is a tree which is most beautiful in its youth and makes when grown neither good timber nor good firewood. Such trees are fitted for their best market when they are about the size of Christmas trees. Unless they are needed to shade little seedlings or protect the soil from washing no harm is done by marketing them at their Christmas tree size.

Young spruces and hemlocks have, however, a much greater potential value which is destroyed by their premature cutting. The Christmas tree woodsman cuts them where he sees them, and where a tree is to large in its entirety he does not scruple to mutilate it by cutting it in the center or rear the top so as to get a Christmas tree of marketable size. The young spruces may not be so closely crowded while small as to destroy their symmetry while young and cutting it off the lower limbs as they grow kill off the tree and make straight sticks of timber.

ber at maturity. Such trees never reach maturity, however, if the Christmas tree pouster can get his ax at them.

The Christmas tree trade is evidently a profitable one, and cannot be stopped. The State, however, should protect its own land and punish with severity those who poach on it for Christmas trees. Where men devote their own lands to the raising of Christmas trees, or cut on the lands of others by their permission, that, of course, is their own business, and a legitimate one. It is tree poaching—the cutting of these trees from any land without regard to ownership—that ought to be stopped. If that is done the worst results of the Christmas tree custom will be very greatly reduced.—Philadelphia Press.

## WILL WED FOR LOVE ONLY.

Governor-elect W. J. Bailey, of Kansas, who recently was made the victim of a practical joke resulting in his receiving over 3,000 offers of marriage from women in every part of the country, thus philosophized in the presence of a correspondent of the "New York World":

No man can make such a decision without running the risk of having the decision overruled. A man marries when the spirit moves him and the girl is willing. In my case the spirit simply hasn't made itself felt. Maybe I will marry; maybe I won't; heaven only knows at this time.

I believe in marrying for love. My old father and mother, whom I buried within the year, married for love, and they were as happily married for half a century. When I die I shall love the girl as my father loved my mother, and I hope my wife will love me as my mother loved my father.

## A RECLUSE FOR FORTY YEARS.

Owen McCarton—rich, cranky, and a recluse—is dead at the age of seventy. Although he had spent forty years of his life in Oceanic, N. J., he was scarcely known to anyone except the members of his own family, says the "Philadelphia North American."

For thirty years he had not crossed the threshold of his dwelling between sunrise and sunset because of an election bet. In the Presidential campaign of 1872 between Grant and Greeley, McCarton was one of the latter's most enthusiastic supporters. He made a bet with a friend that if Grant was elected he would not leave his house except in the course of the night as long as he lived.

McCarton lived up to his wager. About five years ago his house caught fire, and for a time it looked as if he would have to break his agreement, but the flames were extinguished before they had gained sufficient headway to compel him to leave the premises.